News release

First Met Office staff begin work in Devon

3 September 2002

The first team of Met Office staff begin work in Devon this week. Although the majority of Met Office staff won't be moving to the new site in Exeter for at least another year, the Met Office College has already relocated to Torquay.

Based at South Devon College this team will be teaching meteorology, and related courses, to Met Office staff and students from other Met Services across the world.

The self-contained Met Office College has been refurbished to provide training rooms, an IT suite, and office accommodation. While in Torquay students will be accommodated in nearby hotels belonging to the TLH Group.

The first students are a group of seven from Kosovo. They are being trained as forecasters to enable them to take over weather services at Pristina International Airport from the Nato peacekeeping forces.

Met Office College Principal David Bennetts said: "We are something of an advance party for the Met Office in Devon and would like to thank everyone in Torquay who has helped us set up the College in such a short time. In particular I would like to thank the staff at South Devon College for acting as our hosts and look forward to working with them in the coming months."

Speaking on the day the Met Office College began training on the site, Heather Maxwell, Acting Principal of South Devon College, said: "We are excited by this partnership and welcome the Met Office College to the campus in Torquay."

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